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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/615,533	07/07/2003	Guy Lichtenwalter	10960809-5	8212

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HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
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EXAMINER

ZARNEKE, DAVID A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2827

DATE MAILED: 05/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 5-10 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Zaleckas, US Patent 4,091,529 (figures 1 & 4).

Regarding claims 7 and 8, the phrase “for registering the component lead with respect to the pad in a lateral dimension perpendicular to the arms portion of the solder mound” defines an intended use for the apparatus and is therefore given no patentable weight.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations (Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)).

With respect to claims 9 and 17, the phrase “for receiving an extremity of the component lead” defines an intended use for the apparatus and is therefore given no patentable weight.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from

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a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations (Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)).

As to claim 10, the phrase "for registering the component lead with respect to the pad in a lateral dimension perpendicular to the bridge portion of the solder mound" defines an intended use for the apparatus and is therefore given no patentable weight.

It has been held that a recitation with respect to the manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed does not differentiate the claimed apparatus from a prior art apparatus satisfying the claimed structural limitations (Ex parte Masham, 2 USPQ2d 1647 (1987)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 11-16 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zaleckas, US Patent 4,091,529 (figures 1 & 4), as applied to claim 6 above.

Regarding claims 11-16 and 20, while Zaleckas fails to teach the exact dimensions of the pad and the mound, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to optimize these dimensions through routine experimentation (MPEP 2144.05).

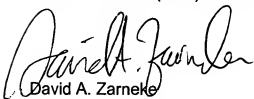
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David A. Zameke whose telephone number is (571)-272-1937. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 10 AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kamand Cuneo can be reached on (571)-272-1957. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Zarneke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" being the most prominent part.

David A. Zarneke
Primary Examiner
May 7, 2004